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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 23 MAY 1949

**SUBJECT Soviet Troop Dispositions
in Saxony-Anhalt**

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. General Observations

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the military situation in Saxony-Anhalt has been stabilized. The large influx of troops has ceased and only occasional transports are arriving from other Russian Zone areas and the USSR. No large scale maneuvers have been seen, but there are indications that they will begin soon. Large troop concentrations were seen in the Wittenberg-Dessau area; among them, tank and engineer units predominated. All available barracks are overcrowded and even stables and attics are being utilized for billet space. Most tanks seen were JS-1, 2, and 3 types.

2. Wittenberg (E37), 20-23 March 1949

a. Flak Kaserne - Approximately 10,000 tank troops, of whom 75% arrived in civilian clothes from Russia four to eight weeks preceding observation dates. Parked in front of sheds: forty-eight T-34, twenty-six JS-1, twenty-seven JS-2, and four tanks with rounded surfaces and equipped with 150 or 152 mm guns. § Also in this Kaserne are approximately 2,000 artillerymen, who were seen training with twelve 122 mm, eighteen 76.2 mm, and nine 76.2 mm AT guns. Most of these troops appear to be recruits. There is also a small engineer unit in the compound. Vehicles: P 4-41, P 4-42, 4-43, E 2-40, and B 3-70 series.

b. Beseler Kaserne - Occupied about six weeks ago by 1,000-2,000 tank troops, most of them recruits. Observed were six T-34 tanks with turret numbers 506 to 511, and four JS-2 with turret numbers 531, 532, 534, 539. Vehicles: P-4-40 series. Also in this Kaserne are approximately 800 artillerymen, who have been in this location for some time. Troops were training on three 107 mm guns. Vehicles: B 3-70 series.

c. Tauntzien Kaserne - Approximately 400-500 tank troops, without tanks or vehicles, who belong to the unit in the Flak Kaserne. These troops are strongly guarded and get no leave.

d. Brückenkopf Kaserne - Held by a small engineer and infantry unit which, so far as is known, has not been reinforced. Also in this Kaserne are 600 engineer troops who arrived in mid-March. These were seen training on the Elbe, using rear engine assault boats, eight rubber boats carrying eight men each, and twelve rubber boats carrying four men each. The assault boats carried mortars and "two infantry guns". Emplacement of

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guns on the west bank of the Elbe was performed under artificial fog. There was no firing.

e. Either a corps or army Hq is located in the Juristenstrasse in Wittenberg. An air force Hq is in the Thälmannstrasse and a high MVD station recently moved into a building in the Buchenhagenerstrasse.

f. [REDACTED] during the four weeks ending 22 March, 20 trains passed through Wittenberg nightly in the direction of Dessau-Rosslau (E17), each train hauling 25-30 tanks. [REDACTED] approximately 100 JS-1 and JS-2 unloaded and moved to various Wittenberg barracks. During the same period, he counted 5 ammunition trains, each 20 cars, passing through the yards, southbound.

3. Rosslau (E17), 24-26 March

a. Eighteen JS-1 were unloaded at the Pionierschule rail siding on 24 March; heavy tank ammunition lying on the ramp had been unloaded from four cars. 25X1X6

b. According to Lt Col KVATCHENKOV, a tank regiment commander formerly [REDACTED] Rosslau received 23,000 new troops from the USSR during the previous six weeks. Most of them are tank and artillery troops; there is also a bridgebuilding unit. A punitive regiment is engaged in cleaning and repair work. A tank regiment formerly based in Rosslau departed on 26 March; some of its men are said to have been shifted to the northern part of the Russian Zone. KVATCHENKOV also said that 200,000-250,000 troops would participate in Saxony-Anhalt maneuvers - a figure confirmed by an employee of the Saxony-Anhalt Ministry for Food.

4. Zerbst (D98), 28 March

a. Heidetorplatz Kaserne - Approximately 500 riflemen and 800-1,000 artillerymen. Observed were three 107 mm and nine 76.2 mm guns. Among the artillerymen, 20%-30% appear to be recruits. Vehicles: B 3-72 series.

b. Goethe/Mozartstrasse Kaserne - Approximately 3,000 tank troops, 75% recruits, who arrived about a month ago. Troops were seen training with thirty T-34 and seventeen JS-1 and JS-2 tanks. Vehicles: E 2-42.

5. Köthen (D95), 30 March

a. Aircraft - Twelve YAK-3, seven YAK-9, nine PE-3, two PO-2, three LA-5, and two planes resembling the FW-189. No flying activity.

b. Troops - Approximately 3,000 tank and artillerymen who arrived a month ago, most of them recruits. Observed were two T-34, twenty-one JS-1, four 76.2 mm and ten 122 mm guns. Vehicles: P 4-42, P 4-48, B 3-71, X 8-65 series.

6. Erfurt (J36) 30-31 March

On 30 March [REDACTED] observed the unloading of troops from 15 four-engine aircraft at Erfurt airfield, which is being dismantled. Some EM and officers wore paratroop insignia. They carried MGs, mortars, and small arms. On 31 March the troops marched into the town. Local residents report that they later trucked to the Kindelgebiet. Airfield workers stated that 80-90 planeloads of troops and materiel had landed during the previous five days. Trucks hauling troops were minus vehicle numbers. §§

Comments

§ On the basis of an earlier inquiry from source, we believe these four tanks to have been JS-3's.

§§ A check by another source reveals no other arrivals of this kind at Bindersleben Airfield after 31 March and up to 4 April. For Kindelgebiet, read Kindl training area, H87.

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